

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OFOR, OINT, UK, BR

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY DEMANDS GOVERNMENT WITHDRAW GEISEL
INVITATION

1. LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)
FEBRUARY 25 APPROVED MOTION CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT TO
WITHDRAW ITS INVITATION FOR PRESIDENT GEISEL TO VISIT UK
LATER THIS YEAR. MOTION ALSO DEPLORED "FACT THAT HEAD
OF ONE OF THE MOST REPRESSIVE REGIMES IN LATIN AMERICA
SHOULD BE WELCOMED TO THIS COUNTRY." NEC'S DEBATE OF
MOTION INCLUDED ALLEGATION THAT BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR
ROBERTO CAMPOS HAD ASKED SPONSOR OF MOTION, TRANSPOR WOR-
KERS UNION OFFICIAL ALEX KITSON, TO WITHDRAW IT, PROMIS-
ING HIM TWO INVITATIONS TO STATE DINNER IN GEISEL'S HONOR
IF HE DID SO (SIC).

2. GOVERNMENT OPPOSED MOTION ON GROUNDS THAT IT DID NOT
REFLECT BRAZILIAN SITUATION AS REPORTED "BY MINISTERS,
PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ACTUALLY VISITED THE
COUNTRY IN RECENT YEARS." FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN.
A MEMBER OF THE NEC, HAS BEEN ILL FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND
WAS NOT THERE TO PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT POSITION.
OTHER MEMBERS OF CABINET PRESENT ABSTAINED ON THE VOTE.

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3. COMMENT: THE NEC, WHICH IS DOMINATED BY LABOR'S LEFT-WING AND IS FREQUENTLY AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT, HAS TRADITIONALLY OPPOSED REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS, AND THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS BEING IN THAT CATEGORY. BRITISH UNIONS, WHICH CONSTITUTE INTEGRAL AND INFLUENTIAL PART OF LABOR PARTY. ARE USUALLY IN FOREFRONT OF SUCH OPPOSITION. ACCORDINGLY. WE DOUBT THAT CALLAGHAN'S PRESENCE WOULD HAVE CHANGED OUTCOME. THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WILL IGNORE THE RESOLUTION AND PROCEED WITH ITS PLANS FOR THE VISIT.

SPIERS

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